

THE REAL COST OF SCHOOL IN

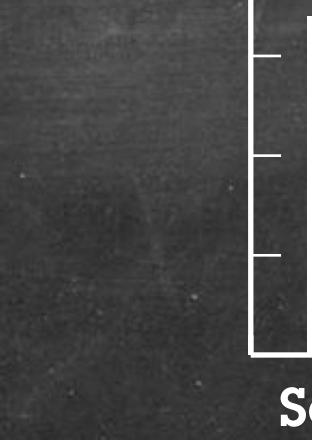
2019

An infographic from Barnardos



About the survey

Carried out in



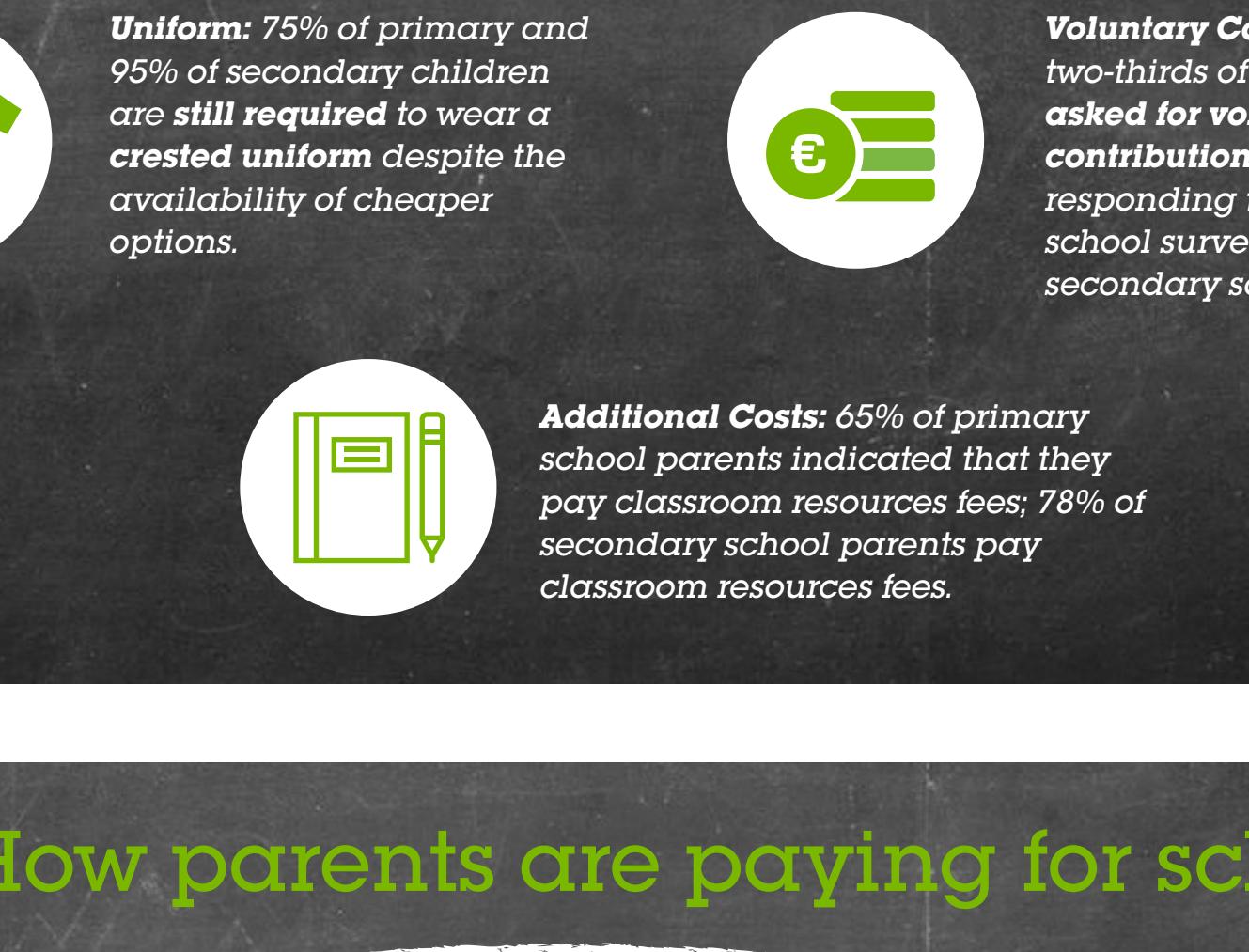
Number of parents surveyed

1,402

Primary / Secondary split



Snapshot: average basic school costs in 2019



Key feedback



Parents are **frustrated** about the **substantial costs** of getting their children ready to return to school in September and want the government to invest in education.



Books: 51% of primary school parents and 46% of secondary school parents reported that their children's **book costs** had gone up this year.



Uniform: 75% of primary and 95% of secondary children are **still required** to wear a **crested uniform** despite the availability of cheaper options.



Voluntary Contribution: Over two-thirds of parents were **asked for voluntary contributions**. 67% responding to the primary school survey and 69% to the secondary school survey.

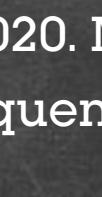


Additional Costs: 65% of primary school parents indicated that they pay classroom resources fees; 78% of secondary school parents pay classroom resources fees.

Cutting back or not paying bills

42% **47%**

primary school parents secondary school parents



"Summer time should be a time spent on the children but instead it is spent worrying about having enough for September, all year round, education leaves us with nothing left, and struggling".

Borrowing money

8% **14%**

primary school parents secondary school parents



"I have been buying school supplies and uniform pieces since March to ensure I have everything for September. The uniform allowance is saved to pay for her schoolbooks in September as the school gets the workbooks and books and then we pay them".

- Comments from parents

What needs to be done to fix this?

Key recommendation from Barnardos for Budget 2020

Uphold children's constitutional right to free primary education by introducing **free school books** for primary school pupils. This would cost €20m or 0.2% of the education budget in #Budget2020. Move towards a truly free education system in subsequent Budgets.



For more results and analysis visit:

barnardos.ie/SchoolCosts19

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